GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:933
ANSWERED ON:08.02.2017
Telecom Infrastructure
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has unveiled a right of way policy which allows only a licensee to deploy telecom infrastructure and if so, the details thereof and the objective behind the move;

(b) whether mobile tower firms have sought clarity from the Government on the policy;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the response of the Government thereto and the other steps taken by the Government in the interest of mobile telecom companies; and

(e) whether the Government proposes to use the post offices and other buildings and infrastructure to further leverage for provision of digital services and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS &
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI MANOJ SINHA)

(a) to (d) The Department of Telecommunications has notified the Indian Telegraph Right of Way Rules, 2016 in the Gazette of India on 15th November, 2016 to facilitate the grant of Right of Way permission to establish underground and overground telegraph infrastructure. These Rules are applicable only to telecom licencees and exclude the infrastructure providers from the ambit of the Rules as they do not possess any licence under section 4 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885. The Indian Telegraph Right of Way Rules, 2016 will ensure Right of Way(RoW) permission for laying telecom infrastructure in a simple, transparent and time bound manner. The Rules allow the Telecom Service Providers to seek RoW permission to lay over ground or underground telecom infrastructure on or under the land owned by Government agencies and Municipal Bodies. The application of RoW have to be accepted or rejected within period of 60 days, failing which the application will be deemed to have approved.

During the process of framing the Rules, consultation was done with all stakeholders including telecom infrastructure providers.

(e) State Governments and Central Ministries including Department of Posts have been requested from time to time to issue necessary instructions/guidelines for installation of telecom towers and explore the possibility of providing in-building solutions in office buildings.

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